

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04687 210559Z

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INSE-00 AID-05 /034 W

-----010709 210817Z /20

R 210323Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8087

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4687

WASHINGTON PASS ORM

HONG KONG PASS INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, MY

SUBJECT: SITREP-INDOCHINESE REFUGEES-MALAYSIA

REF: HONG KONG 8272

1. INSOFF, EMBOFF AND VOLAG REP RETURNED 7-17-77 FROM TRIP TO SCREEN
REFUGEES AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN JOHORE:

SUNGEI RENGIT: - 611

KUALA SEDILI - 86

MERSING - 430

ENDAU - 140

TOTAL IN JOHORE - 1267

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2. AS PER REFTTEL, INS OFFICER APPROVED 123 PERSONS FOR MOVEMENT AND
CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AN ADDITIONAL 177 PENDING VERIFICATION. IT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR INS TO PRESCREEN A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE IN
JOHORE, AS MANY HAD NEVER BEEN PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY CONOFF
OR VOLAG AND NO INFO OR FORMS 590 WERE AVAILABLE. THIS
BAWILL NECESSITATE A RETURN VISIT WHEN FILES ARE PREPARED AND
VERIFICATION BECOMES AVAILABLE (ASSUMING CE PROGRAM REMAINS

UNCHANGED).

3. LIVING CONDITIONS IN CAMPS IN JOHORE RANGE FROM POOR TO TERRIBLE. IN SUNGEI RENGIT OVER 600 REFUGEES LIVE IN SELF-CONSTRUCTED ATTAP HUTS ON THE BEACH. THEY RUN VERY REAL RISK OF LITERALLY "BLOWING AWAY" WHEN THE MONSOON SEASON BEGINS. IN MERSING 127 REFUGEES STILL LIVING ABOARD THEIR DISABLED VESSELS IN THE HARBOR. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS ABOARD THESE BADLY-OVER-CROWDED VESSELS, SANITARY AND OTHER CONDITIONS CAN BE IMAGINED. UNHCR AND LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRAL CAMP FOR JOHORE REFUGEES ON PULAU TENGAH. EMB HAS SEIOUS DOUBTS CAMP WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY BY ONSET OF MONSOON SEASON.

4. MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING MORE DETERMINED AND MORE EFFICIENT AT REFUSING REFUGEES TEMPORARY ASYLUM. UNHCR REPORTS THERE ARE CURRENTLY 3 BOATS WILL 111 PERSONS ABOARD IN TRENGGANU. REFUGEES ARE BEING HELD INLAND INCOMMUNICADO. (UNHCR REP DENIED PERMISSION TO VISIT) WHILE THEIR BOATS UNDERGO REPAIRS IN DRYDOCK PREPARATORY TO BEING PUSHED OFF. SIMILAR SITUATION EXISTS IN KUANTAN WITH BOAT OF 55 PERSONS, INCLUDING FORMER LT. GEN. IN CAMBODIAN ARMY. TREND SEEMS TO BE TOWARD WILLINGESS BY GOM TO UNDERTAKE LENGTHY AND COSTLY REPAIRS TO REFUGEE SHIPS IN ORDER TO BE RID OF THEM. WHILE REPAIRS ARE UNDERTAKEN NO ONE, INCLUDING UNHCR, GIVEN ACCESS TO REFUGEES.

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5. OTHER POSTS IN REGION MAY REASONABLY EXPEXT INCREASE IN BOAT CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN DENIED ASYLUM IN MALAYSIA. EMB AWARE OF A NUMBER OF BOATS, WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED REFUGEES ABOARD, WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS ALONE.
MILLER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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